



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of Hans HORN et al.

Appln. No.: 10/542,731

Confirmation No.: 8426

Filed: 07/20/2005

Art Group: 3722

For:

RING BINDER MECHANISM

Attorney Docket No.: 3827.135

Customer Number: 30448

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited either by facsimile to 571-273-8300 or with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February 1, 2007.

onghong then

📐, Reg. No. 56,150

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and §1.98

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the following documents for the above-identified application. Copies of any non-US documents set forth below and listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A, copy of the International Search Report (ISR) issued in the corresponding PCT application are provided herewith. A copy of an English translation of the International Preliminary Report on Patentability is also enclosed herewith.

- 1. WO 01/81099 A1 (English abstract is provided on the cover page)
- 2. US 3,993,374
- 3. US 4,566,817

Appln. No.: 10/542,731

Information Disclosure Statement

US 4,130,368 4.

5. EP 0 808 725 A1 (in English)

Documents 1-5 are cited in the ISR. A concise explanation of relevancy for each non-

English document is provided below:

Document 1

It is indicated in the ISR that page 10, line 18 to page 19, line 29 and Figs. 1b, 5a, and 7a

of Document 1 are "X" category relevant to claims 1-7 and 10 of the corresponding PCT

application.

Since the present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date

of the first office Action, no certificate under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p)

is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such

document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not

waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any

listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Applicants respectfully request that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner

and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08A

be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Date: February 1, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

Yonghong Chen (Registration No. 56,150)

Attorney Docket: 3827.135

Customer No. 30448

Akerman Senterfitt

222 Lakeview Avenue, Suite 400

West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Phone: 561-653-5000

Fax: 561-659-6313

2

PTO/SB/08A (07-05) Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

Sheet 1

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known			
Application Number	10/542,731		
Filing Date	07/20/2005		
First Named Inventor	Hans Horn		
Art Unit	3722		
Examiner Name			
Attorney Docket Number	3827 135		

				DOCUMENTS	
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Document Number Number-Kind Code ^{2 (# known)}	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevan Figures Appear
		^{US-} 3,993,374	11-23-1976	Schudy et al.	
	1	^{US-} 4,566,817	01-28-1986	Barrett, Jr.	
		^{US-} 4,130,368	12-19-1978	Jacoby et al.	
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
-		US-			
	 	US-			

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages	_
	<u> </u>	Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ 'Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY		Or Relevant Figures Appear	L
		WO 01/81099 A1	11-01-2001	ESSELTE LEITZ GMBH & CO KG		
		EP 0 808 725 A1	11-16-1997	LECO STATIONERY MANUFACTURING CO. LTD.		
						L
						L
	ŀ					L
	1					

Examiner	Date	
Signature	Considered	

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. Applicant is to place a check mark here if English tanguage Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.